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24 March 1964

Dear Walt,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 March to Mr. McCone with your "amiable bee" on identifying the passages in Khrushchev's speeches which he originated. In the Director's absence I am sending this down to Ray Cline to get his Kremlinologists buzzing.

Of course, you do realize that inevitably the first effort of our Kremlinologists or Sovietologists is to try and analyze the authorship and I harken back to the exchange of messages during the Cuban crisis, including one or two which seemed to be almost exclusively Khrushchev.

While I am not sure that we have enough basic data to program this effort on machines--nor the programmers or machines available--we will certainly explore the issue and be in touch.

Sincerely yours,

S. Kirkpatrick

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Acting Director

Walt
Hon. Walt W. Rostow
Counselor and Chairman
Policy Planning Council
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Counselor and Chairman
Policy Planning Council
Washington

March 19, 1964

Dear John:

Sir Harold Caccia has an amiable bee in his bonnet. It stems from the fact that analysts of language have been able, by statistical means, firmly to distinguish the authors of various books in the Bible. (Americans have done the same in establishing the authorship of the various Federalist papers.)

Sir Harold's notion is that the application of these methods would permit us firmly to identify passages in Khrushchev's speeches which were of his drafting, as opposed to bureaucratic drafting. British intelligence lacks the men and machines to conduct this kind of experiment. He urged me to lay the proposition before the American intelligence community.

This I hereby do.

I would only add this: it is quite possible that first rate Kremlinologists could do this without machines; but those good enough haven't the time. I conclude, therefore, that if it doesn't take excessive resources, Harold's notion may be worth an experimental run.

Yours,

Walt

W. W. Rostow

The Honorable
John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence
Agency
Washington, D. C.